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Dr. Ayres then implies that it is only after several changes that I have arrived at the conclusion regarding the generic distinction of *Notorhynchus*. I have had two opinions, one, before seeing the species, that it was a *Heptranchias* of Rafinesque or *Heptanchus* of Müller,—accepting the views of Müller and Henle, Gray, Girard, &c.,—and the final one, after study of the Nisqually jaw, that it was the representative of a distinct genus. For that genus I have adopted Ayres' name, but by no means the ideas connected with it by him.

One statement of Dr. Ayres is especially entitled to attention, as, if corroborated, it must effect an entire revolution in our views respecting the value of dentition, and is entirely opposed to the experience of Müller and Henle, Bonaparte, Agassiz, and all others. He remarks that my description of the dentition "represents the individual specimen on which it was founded ; but the species is quite common here, and I find that the number and the forms of the teeth vary so much that my original description, which Mr. Gill says is 'equally applicable to any species of the family,' is fully as close as nature will allow us to draw." It is certainly rather unfortunate for science, as well as himself, that Dr. Ayres has omitted to produce proof of so remarkable a discovery, as, on account of the respectability and number of the gentlemen alluded to who have adopted other views, and in deference to whom reasons might be assigned, it will be regarded with at least some doubt and skepticism, notwithstanding even Dr. Ayres' assertion. It is scarcely necessary to remark, that if this discovery is confirmed, *Notorhynchus* must be suppressed and its species referred to *Heptranchias ;* but until such is done, it may, without any imputation on the perfect reliability of Dr. Ayres, be retained, since that learned gentleman has himself done so, notwithstanding his discovery and the admission of a misapprehension in regarding its representative as the type of a new genus.

June 7th.

MR. JEANES in the Chair.

Seven members present.

Mr. Gill called the attention of the members to several points in Ichthyology and Conchology. He exhibited from the collection of the Academy a specimen of a species of *Percopsis* obtained by Surgeon General Hammond in Kansas. The differences between it and the *Percopsis guttatus*, Ag., of Lake Superior, also exhibited, were strong; the head is larger, (contained $3\frac{1}{2}$ times in the length, *exclusive of caudal ;*) the dorsal is higher, (the longest ray equal to $4\frac{2}{3}$ of length ;) the anal is also higher, (the longest ray contained six times in length ;) the pectoral equals the height of the dorsal ($=4\frac{2}{3}$;) the ventral especially is longest, contained $5\frac{3}{4}$ times in the length, and its extremity covers the anus, which is nearer the snout than the margin of the caudal fin. The species may be named, in honor of its distinguished discoverer, *Percopsis Hammondii.*

Mr. Gill remarked that, after an examination of the species of *Sodis*, Raf., and *Paralepis*, Cuv., in the collection of the Academy, he was convinced that the families of Paralepidoids and Alepidosauroids were most closely allied.

Mr. Gill next referred to the history of the name *Gymnotus*, showing that it had been originally founded solely on the *Gymnotus carapus*, and that even after the introduction of the *Gymnotus electricus* into the system, the *G. carapus* was retained as the first of the genus. The retention of the name *Gymnotus* for the *G. electricus* and the bestowal of a new one on *G. carapus* are therefore obvious infractions of the laws of nomenclature. The name *Gymnotus* must be retained for *G. carapus*, and a new one given to the *Gymnotus electricus*, Linn.

That of *Electrophorus* will be appropriate. This change is the less to be regretted, as the nomenclature of *carapus* is in a confused state, that name having been previously applied by Rafinesque to a species of the genus *Fierasfer*. Mr. Gill gave an enumeration of the genera of Gymnotoids, admitting the genera *Electrophorus*, *Gymnotes*, Gill, (Gymnotus æquilabiatus, Humb.,) *Gymnotus*, Art., (=Carapus,) *Sternopygus*, M.T., *Hypopomus*, Gill, (*Rhamphichthys Mulleri*, Kaup,) *Rhamphichthys*, M. T., *Sternarchus*, Schneid., and *Sternarchorhynchus*, Cast. Mr. Gill concluded by suggesting that the Gymnotoids were perhaps related to the Nematognathi, and remarked that he knew several undescribed species.

Mr. Gill next called attention to the fact that the genus for which the name *Melantho* had been recently accepted from Bowdich, had long before been characterized under the name *Campeloma* by Rafinesque. In June, 1819, in the 88th volume of the Journal de Physique, (p. 423,) that type is introduced in the following terms:

(26) Campeloma. Test ovale. Ouverture ovale, base tronquée, lievres réfléchies, flexeuses, unies en pointe postérieurement. Point d'ombilic. Animal inconnu. J'en ai une seule espèce trouvée dans l'Ohio. *C. crassula.* 4 tours de spires contraires, sommet aigu, test épais, ouverture plus de la moitié de la longueur totale.

This diagnosis is evidently only applicable to a Viviparoid, and was doubtless founded on a reversed specimen of the *Paludina ponderosa* of Say, or a closely related species. The name has indeed been referred, by the erudite Hermannsen, to the synonymy of *Melanopsis*, and in this he has been followed by the brothers Adams, but the diagnosis, as well as the habitat, cannot support such a reference.

In advance of the publication of the generic name *Campeloma*, Rafinesque had proposed a new genus—*Ambloxis*—in the third volume of the "American Monthly Magazine and Critical Review," (p. 355, Sept., 1818,) which was also doubtless intended for the *Paludina ponderosa* and its congeners,* but the insufficiency of his generic diagnosis, as well as the want of connection with any *described* species, will prevent its adoption.

The speaker remarked that he would not attempt to enumerate the species of *Campeloma*, as he could not agree with previous authors regarding their limits, and had not the material to arrive at a satisfactory opinion himself; he could therefore only refer to the genus an assemblage of forms represented by the same specific names as were formerly placed under *Melantho*, after the exclusion of *Paludina Elliottii* of Lea, which probably belongs to the genus *Lioplax*. The names referred to the synonymy of the other species mentioned under that genus appear to represent forms of the genus, with the exceptions of *Paludina cornea*, Val., and *Lymnula ventricosa*, Raf. The former name was doubtless proposed for the *Lioplax subcarinata*, having the "sutures deeply impressed," and the "*rampe*" around the spire being especially characteristic of that shell. The *Lymnula ventricosa* was probably founded on *Anculosa praerosa*, or an allied species.

June 14th.

Vice-President Bridges in the Chair.

Twelve members present.

A paper was presented for publication entitled "On the Influence of the Earth's Atmosphere on the Color of the Stars." By Jacob Ennis.

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* III. G. Ambloxis. Univalve. Shell thick oboval; mouth oval, rounded at the base, obtuse above, with a thick appendage of the lip; columella flexuous; a small rugose umbilicus. 2 species —1. *A. eburnea*; 2. *A. ventricosa*, Raf.